## MANGAL PANDE

The Indian sepoys of the Native infantry Regiment, in Barrackpore, were appalled when they heard that the cartridges they bit into before loading their guns were going to be greased with cow and pig fat. It was an insult to their religious sentiments. The murmurings of dissent rose as the news spread but the British were insensitive to the reasons behind it. And then Mangal Pandey, a sepoy from the Native Infantry, fired the shot that triggered off the First War of Indian Independence.

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AMAR CHITRA KATHA

# MANGAL PANDE

HE FIRED THE FIRST SHOT

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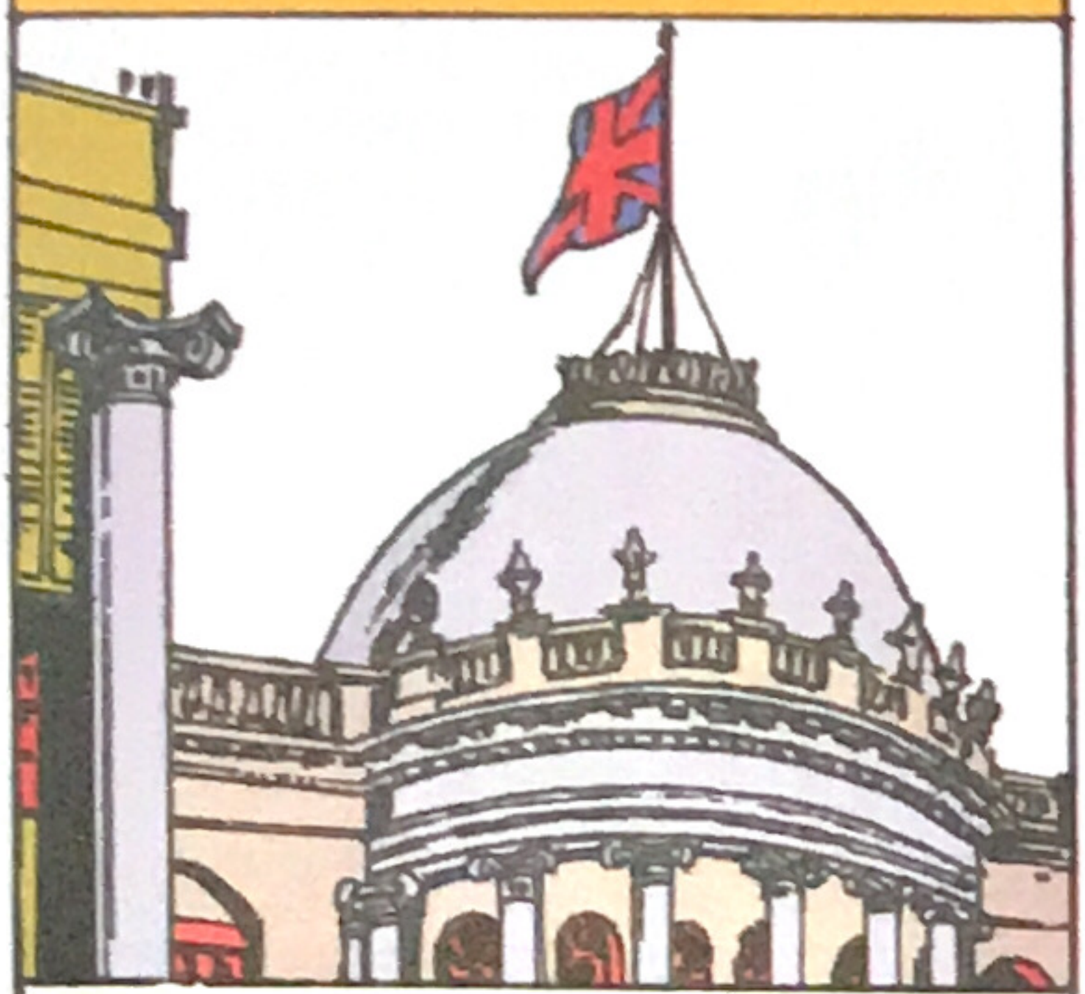
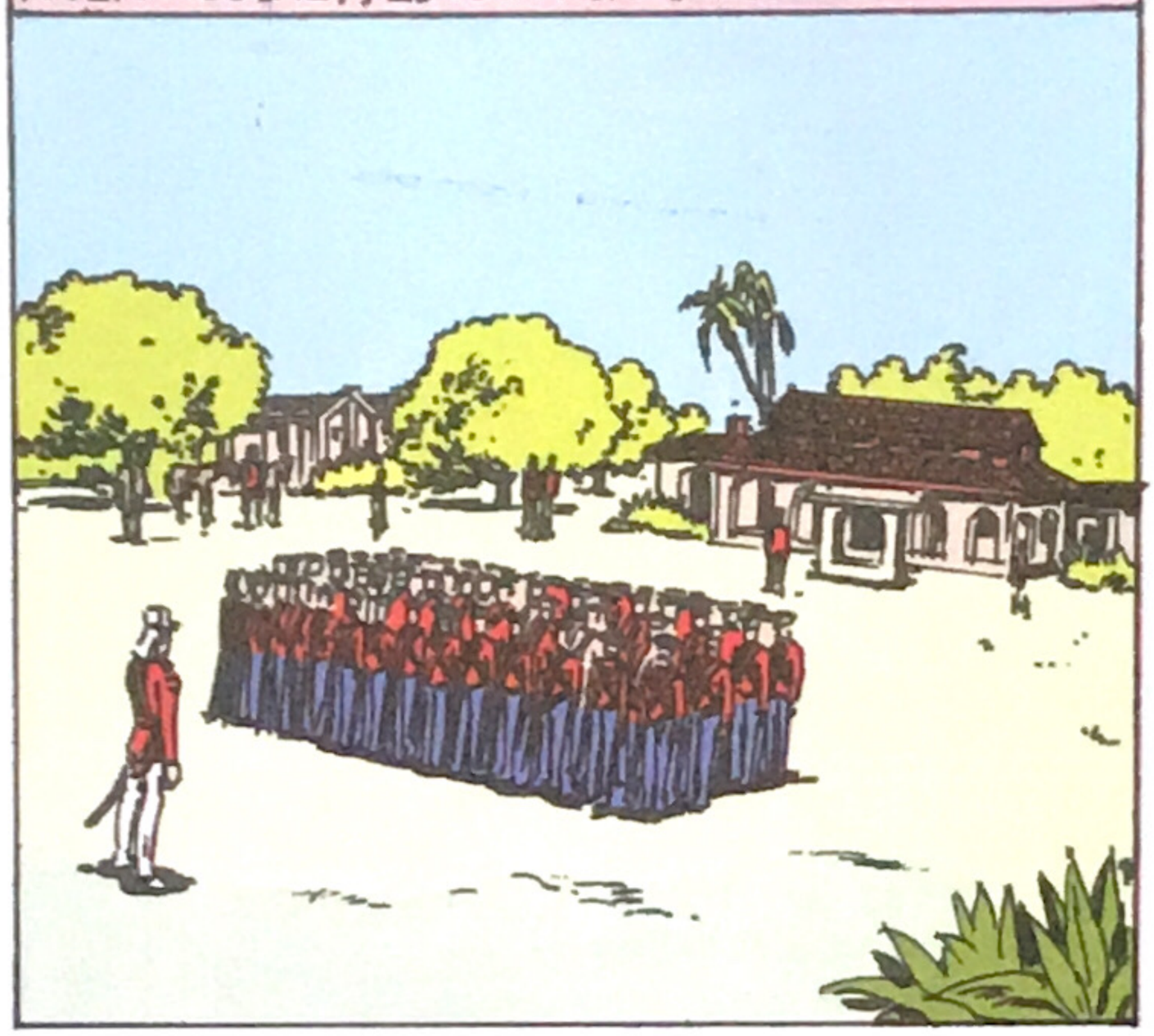
# MANGAL PANDE

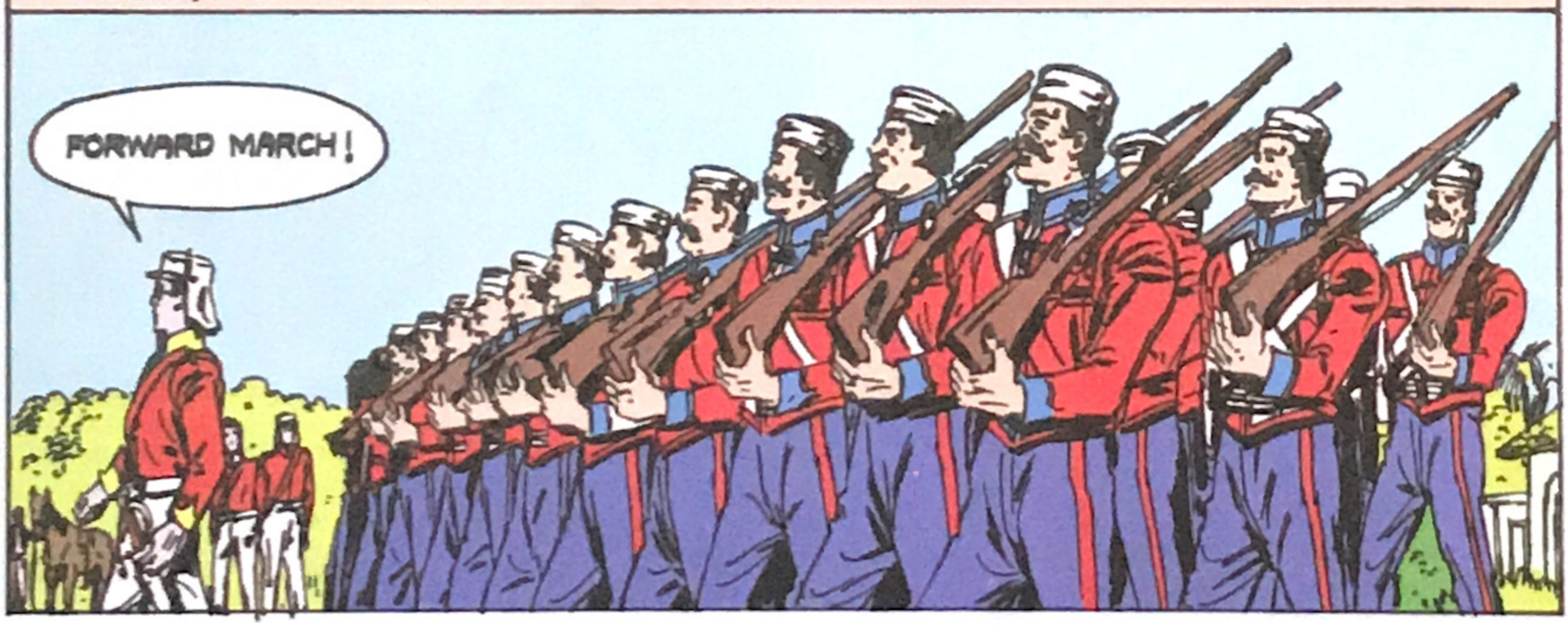


A HUNDRED YEARS HAD GONE BY SINCE THE BATTLE OF PLASSEY, AND ALMOST THE WHOLE OF INDIA HAD NOW PASSED INTO THE HANDS OF THE BRITISH.

IN THE WINTER OF 1857, BARRACKPORE WAS AN IMPORTANT MILITARY STATION ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER HOOGHLY, 25 KM FROM CALCUTTA.



THE TALL HANDSOME INDIAN SEPOYS OF THE 34TH NATIVE INFANTRY REGIMENT, IN THEIR SHINING UNIFORMS, PRESENTED AN IMPRESSIVE PICTURE AS THEY TOOK PART IN THE DAILY PARADE.



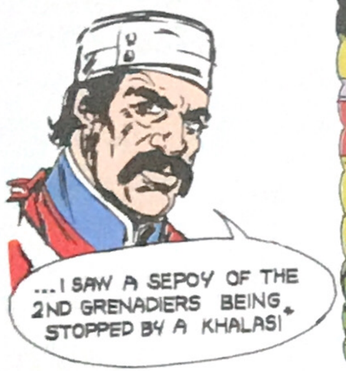

WHEN THE TROOPS WERE DISMISSED —

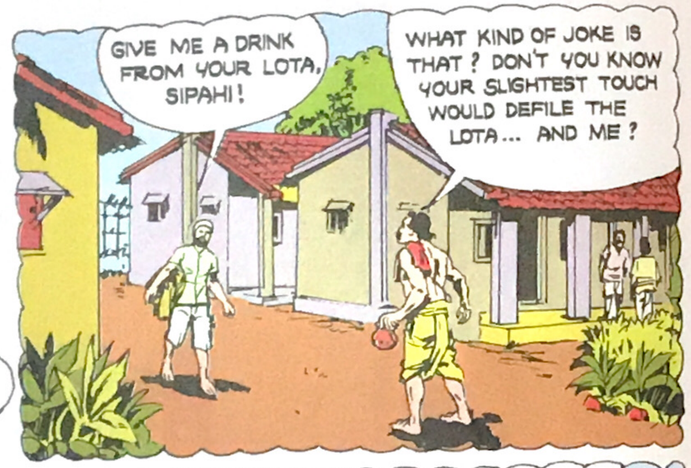
JUST THEN —

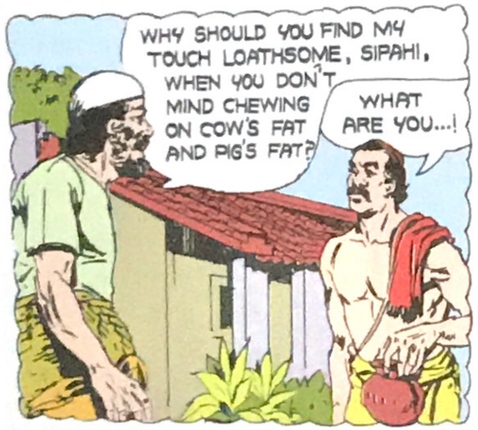
DUM DUM WAS A MILITARY STATION, ABOUT 13 KM FROM CALCUTTA, WHERE AMMUNITION WAS MANUFACTURED.

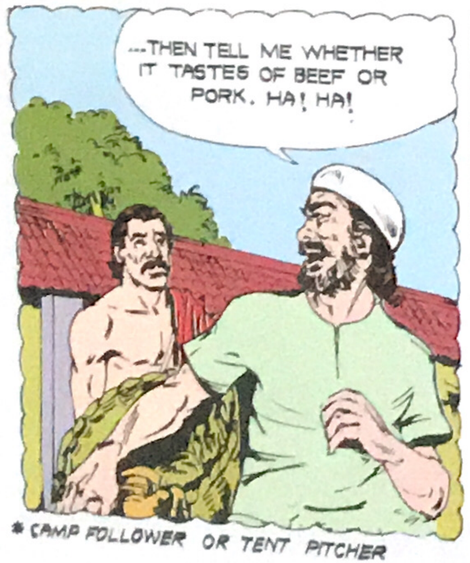
* A CORRUPT FORM OF COMPANY AS THE EAST INDIA COMPANY WAS KNOWN.

** ALLOWANCE

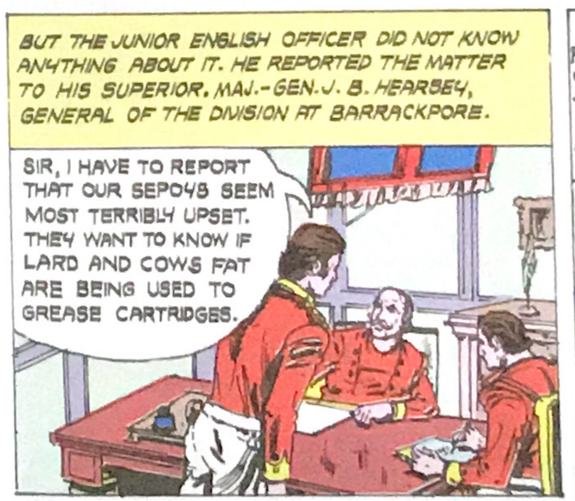


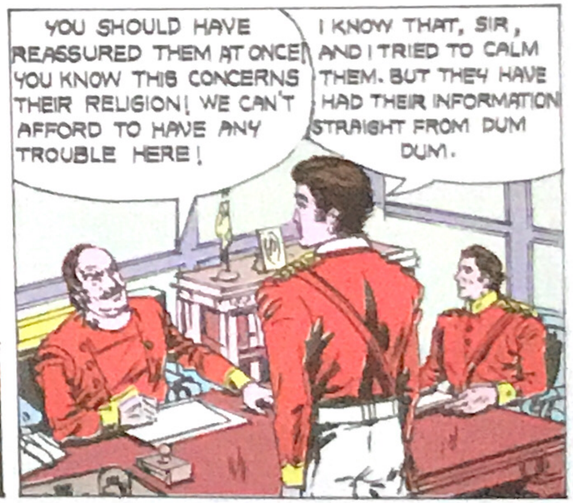





* CAMP FOLLOWER OR TENT PITCHER

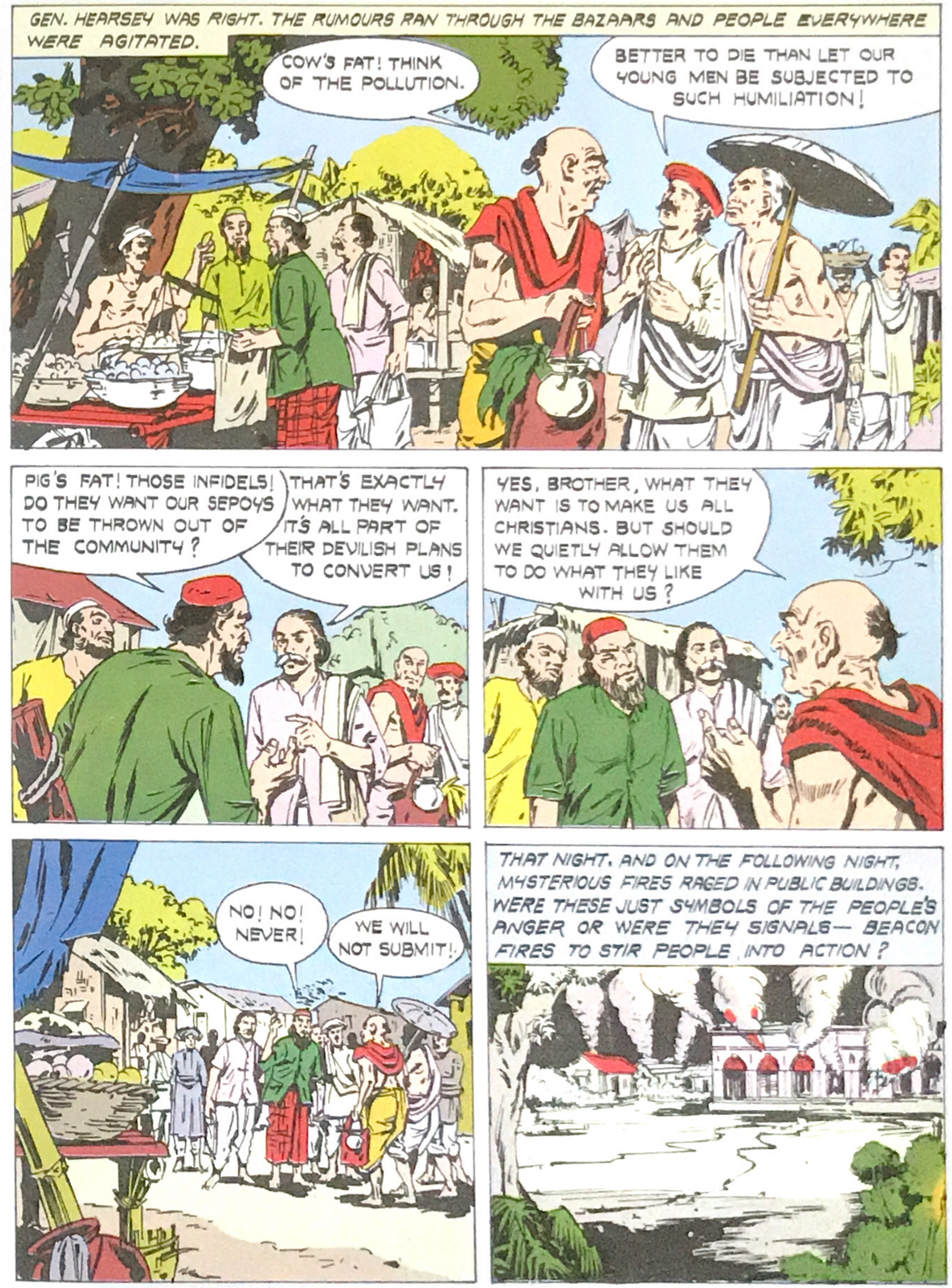


DAMN THESE NATIVES! THEIR BAZAARS, BUZZING WITH ALL THE LATEST NEWS, ARE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN OUR TELEGRAPH WIRES!
THAT'S TRUE, SIR! THEY SEEM TO GET ACCURATE INFORMATION MUCH BEFORE WE DO!
BUT STRICTLY SPEAKING, THEIR INFORMATION IS NOT ALL THAT ACCURATE, YOU KNOW. THOSE CARTRIDGES HAVE NOT YET BEEN ISSUED TO THE MEN.
STILL, THEY ARE SUSPICIOUS, DAMNED SUSPICIOUS! HM...
SEND A LETTER TO THE GOVERNMENT AT CALCUTTA." THE SEPOYS ARE LABOURING UNDER A GREAT FEAR. THIS MATTER REQUIRES DELICATE HANDLING. I REQUEST PERMISSION TO ALLOW THEM TO USE GREASE THAT THEY THEMSELVES HAVE MADE."
BUT THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL OF THE ARMY IN MEERUT, TO WHOM THE MATTER WAS EVENTUALLY REFERRED, WIRED BACK—
"THESE CONCESSIONS WILL AROUSE THE VERY SUSPICIONS THEY ARE INTENDED TO ALLAY...FOR YEARS THE SEPOYS HAVE BEEN USING CARTRIDGES GREASED WITH MUTTON FAT OR WAX. WHY SHOULD THEY MAKE A FUSS NOW?"
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND. OUR MEN ARE VERY DISTURBED ABOUT THE GREASED CARTRIDGES. I DON'T THINK WE HAVE HEARD THE LAST OF THIS!






GEN. HEARSEY WAS RIGHT. THE RUMOURS RAN THROUGH THE BAZAARS AND PEOPLE EVERYWHERE WERE AGITATED.
COW'S FAT! THINK OF THE POLLUTION.
BETTER TO DIE THAN LET OUR YOUNG MEN BE SUBJECTED TO SUCH HUMILIATION!
PIG'S FAT! THOSE INFIDELS! DO THEY WANT OUR SEPOYS TO BE THROWN OUT OF THE COMMUNITY?
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT. IT'S ALL PART OF THEIR DEVILISH PLANS TO CONVERT US!
YES, BROTHER, WHAT THEY WANT IS TO MAKE US ALL CHRISTIANS. BUT SHOULD WE QUIETLY ALLOW THEM TO DO WHAT THEY LIKE WITH US?
NO! NO! NEVER!
WE WILL NOT SUBMIT!
THAT NIGHT, AND ON THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, MYSTERIOUS FIRES RAGED IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS. WERE THESE JUST SYMBOLS OF THE PEOPLE'S ANGER OR WERE THEY SIGNALS— BEACON FIRES TO STIR PEOPLE INTO ACTION?

THEN FOLLOWED NOCTURNAL MEETINGS. CANTONMENT AFTER CANTONMENT SEETHED WITH RESENTMENT OVER THE STORY OF THE GREASED CARTRIDGES AND OTHER STORIES.
THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE STORES ADDS ANIMAL FAT TO THE GHEE.
THE SAHIB IN CHARGE OF THE SUGAR BOILS BONES AND MIXES THE RESULTING SOUP WITH SUGAR SYRUP.
AT BARRACKPORE, MAJ. MATHEWS, OF THE 43RD REGIMENT, RECEIVED AN ANONYMOUS PETITION.
"WE DO NOT APPROVE OF THE NEW MUSKET AND CARTRIDGES. THE SEPOYS CANNOT USE THEM... YOU ALL OBEY THE ORDER OF THE COMPANY... BUT A KING OR ANY OTHER WHO ACTS UNJUSTLY DOES NOT REMAIN IN POWER FOR LONG."
WHAT RUBBISH! THESE SEPOYS HAVE THEIR HEADS FULL OF NONSENSE!
A NUMBER OF LETTERS, SIGNED BY SEPOYS, WERE POSTED TO VARIOUS STATIONS OF THE BENGAL ARMY.
"WE SERVE FOR HONOUR AND RELIGION; IF WE LOSE OUR HONOUR, THE HINDU AND MOHAMMEDAN RELIGIONS WILL BE DESTROYED."
THAT IS TRUE. THEY ARE THE MASTERS OF OUR COUNTRY. BUT WE WILL NOT GIVE UP OUR RELIGION. LET THEM DISCHARGE US, AND WE WILL GO AWAY.

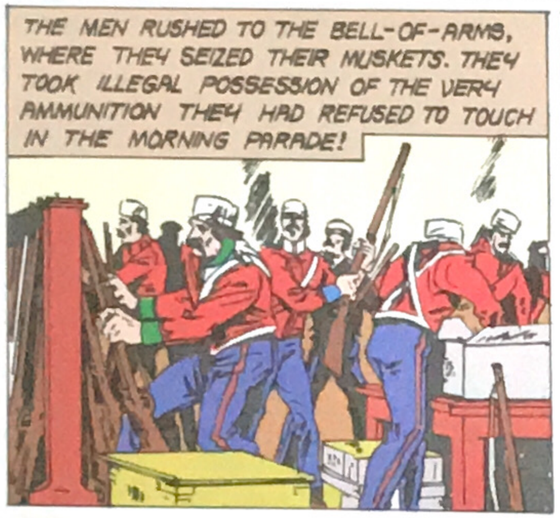
A WEEK LATER A DETACHMENT FROM THE 34TH REGIMENT WAS ASKED TO MARCH TO BERHAMPORE ON ROUTINE DUTY.
AT BERHAMPORE THEY WERE GREETED EAGERLY BY THEIR COMRADES OF THE 19TH NATIVE INFANTRY.
IS THE STORY TRUE THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS US TO USE COW'S FAT AND LARD TO GREASE THE AMMUNITION FOR THEIR NEW RIFLES?
YES. IT IS TRUE! IT IS THEIR INTENTION TO DEFILE US!
HE IS RIGHT! FRESH SUPPLIES OF AMMUNITION HAVE JUST COME FROM CALCUTTA, AND YOU SHOULD SEE THE PAPER IN WHICH IT IS WRAPPED!
PAPER? WHAT'S THIS ABOUT PAPER?
THE PAPER IS FULL OF GREASE. THEY MEAN TO POLLUTE US IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE!

AT BERHAMPORE THE NEXT DAY (FEBRUARY 27,) A ROUTINE PARADE OF THE 19TH NATIVE INFANTRY HAD BEEN ORDERED, BUT WHEN THE SEPOYS WERE ASKED TO TAKE THE PERCUSSION CAPS –
NO, NO, SIR, WE CAN'T ACCEPT THEM.
BUT WHY NOT? THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THEM, IS THERE!
SIR, THOSE CARTRIDGES ARE POLLUTED. EVEN IF WE JUST TOUCH THEM, WE WILL BE DEFILED!
BUT YOU'VE USED THE SAME AMMUNITION BEFORE.
NO, SIR, IT'S NOT THE SAME AS THE OLD ONE...
SIR, AND JUST LOOK AT THE PAPER. IT'S FULL OF GREASE!
THAT'S NOT GREASE! THIS IS A KIND OF PARCHMENT PAPER!
DON'T ASK US TO TOUCH IT, SIR!
WE WILL LOSE OUR STATUS. WE WILL BE OUTCASTES!
ALL RIGHT, I'LL SPEAK TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER.

UNFORTUNATELY, COL. MITCHELL, THE COMMANDING OFFICER, WAS A RATHER ILL-TEMPERED MAN.
HOW DARE YOU DISOBEY ORDERS? WE CAN FORCE YOU TO DO ANYTHING WE LIKE...
WHAT'S ALL THIS FUSS ABOUT ANYWAY? THESE CARTRIDGES HAVE BEEN MADE UP BY THE PREVIOUS REGIMENT LAST YEAR— BY YOUR OWN COMRADES!
MITCHELL WAS SPEAKING THE TRUTH, BUT HE WAS GREETED BY A STONY SILENCE.
WE CANNOT TRUST THIS MAN.
MITCHELL GOT EVEN MORE ANGRY.
NOW, I WILL STAND NO INDISCIPLINE! IF YOU REFUSE TO TAKE THE AMMUNITION, YOU WILL BE SENT TO BURMA AND THERE YOU WILL ALL DIE!
COL. MITCHELL STORMED OFF, LEAVING THE MEN DISMAYED.
THE REPORTS WE HEARD MUST BE TRUE!
THOSE CARTRIDGES ARE POLLUTED AND HE IS ANGRY AT BEING FOUND OUT!

LATER, AS THE COMMANDING OFFICER DROVE HOME –
THERE IS TROUBLE IN THE OFFING. BUT HOW DO WE AVERT IT? WE HAVE NO EUROPEAN TROOPS IN BERHAMPORE.
McANDREW, THE NATIVE CAVALRY AND ARTILLERY ARE DEPENDABLE, DON'T YOU THINK?
YES, SIR, I THINK THEY ARE.
THERE MAY NOT BE ANY TROUBLE. ALL THE SAME, I WOULD LIKE TO BE PREPARED JUST IN CASE...
SOON AFTER, IN THE INFANTRY LINES –
HAVE YOU HEARD? THE C.O. HAS ORDERED OUT THE CAVALRY AND THE ARTILLERY!
HE'LL FORCE US TO USE THE GREASED CARTRIDGES AT GUN POINT!
BUT WE WILL RESIST! SOUND THE ALARM! BEAT THE DRUM!

AT 10:00 P.M. THAT NIGHT, MITCHELL HAD JUST FALLEN INTO A FIRST FITFUL SLEEP, WHEN HE WAS AWAKENED BY CONFUSED SOUNDS – A MIXTURE OF DRUMBEATS AND LOUD VOICES.
DRUMS! IT'S HAPPENED THEN! THE MEN OF THE 19TH N.I. HAVE DECIDED TO REBEL!
MITCHELL GOT UP AT ONCE AND STARTED GETTING DRESSED.
I'LL GO MYSELF AND INFORM THE CAVALRY AND ARTILLERY COMMANDANT TO SET OFF RIGHT NOW FOR THE INFANTRY LINES.
AT THE INFANTRY LINES –
CAN YOU HEAR THE CAVALRY GALLOPING DOWN?
IT SOUNDS MORE LIKE THE CLATTER OF ARTILLERY GUN WHEELS!
WITHOUT QUITE KNOWING WHY, THEY WENT TO THE BELL-HOUSE WHERE THE ARMS WERE STORED. THE SEPOYS IMAGINED THE WORST. NO ONE KNEW WHAT WAS THE TRUTH AND WHAT WAS NOT. BUT ALL FELT A VAGUE DREAD.
THEN SOMEONE SOUNDED THE ALARM BELL. THE SEPOYS LOOKED AT ONE ANOTHER FEARFULLY.
CLANG CLANG


THE MEN RUSHED TO THE BELL-OF-ARMS, WHERE THEY SEIZED THEIR MUSKETS. THEY TOOK ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF THE VERY AMMUNITION THEY HAD REFUSED TO TOUCH IN THE MORNING PARADE!

THEY LOADED THEIR PIECES...

... AND THEN LOOKED AT EACH OTHER, AGAIN FEAR
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN?

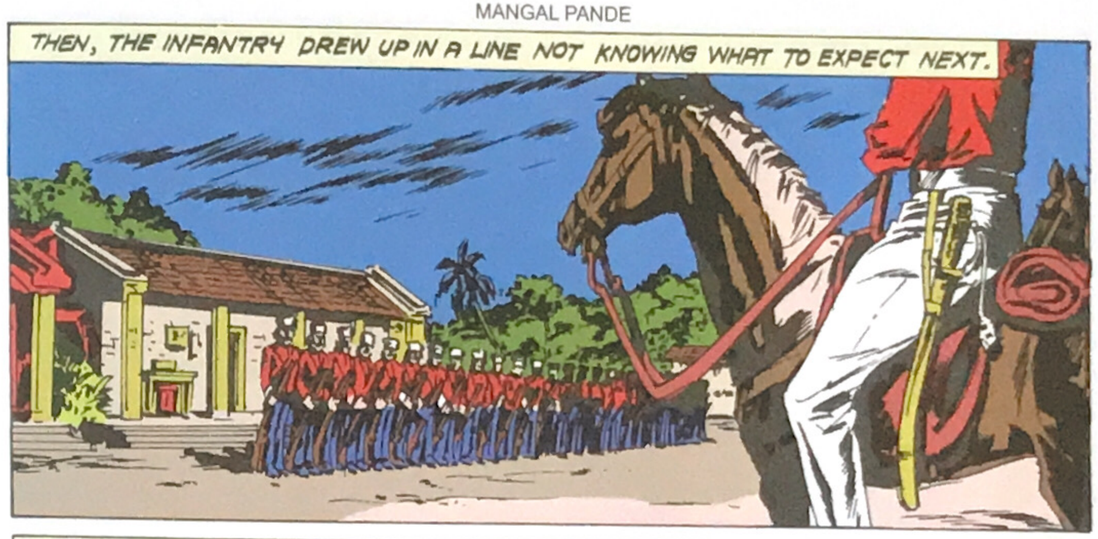
AT THAT INSTANT, THEY HEARD A RUMBLING SOUND. THIS TIME, IT WAS DANGEROUSLY CLOSE.
ARTILLERY GUNS!
...AND THE CAVALRY!

NEXT THEY HEARD GALLOPING HOOVES.
I CAN SEE THE LIGHT FROM THEIR TORCHES...
... AND THE FLASH OF THEIR SABRES!

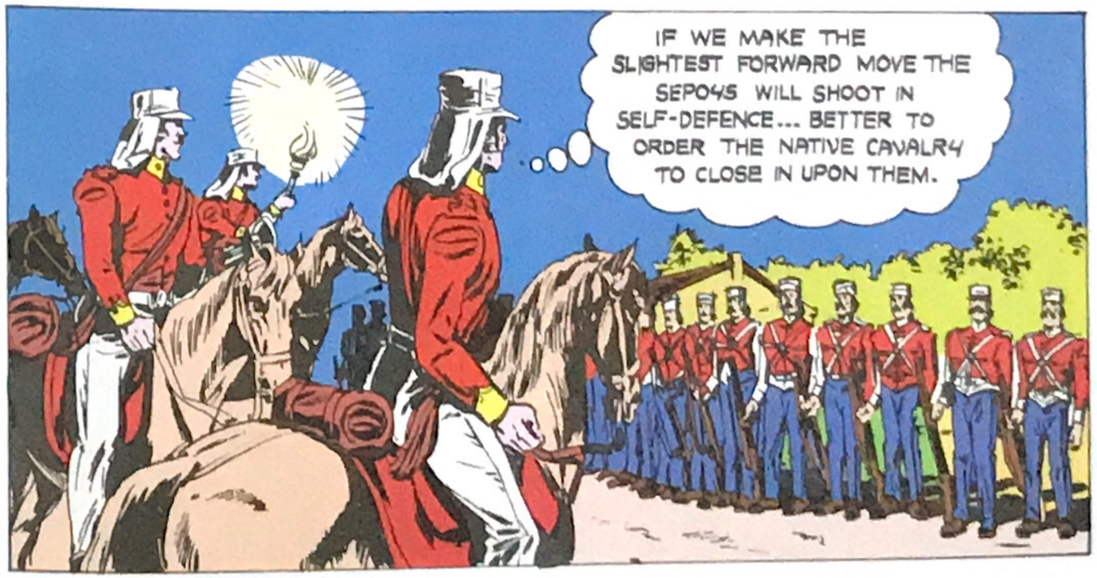
THOUGH THEY HAD LOADED MUSKETS IN THEIR HANDS, THE MEN OF THE INFANTRY STOOD STOCK-STILL. NOT A SHOT WAS FIRED.






THEN, THE INFANTRY DREW UP IN A LINE NOT KNOWING WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT.

MITCHELL HAD GATHERED TOGETHER HIS EUROPEAN OFFICERS AND THEY, TOO, CAME DOWN TO THE PARADE GROUNDS.


IF WE MAKE THE SLIGHTEST FORWARD MOVE THE SEPOYS WILL SHOOT IN SELF-DEFENCE... BETTER TO ORDER THE NATIVE CAVALRY TO CLOSE IN UPON THEM.

BUT FIRST HE DECIDED TO HAVE ONE LAST PARLEY WITH THE INFANTRY.
HAVE THE CALL SOUNDED FOR AN ASSEMBLY OF THE NATIVE INFANTRY OFFICERS.

THE SUMMONS WAS OBEYED, BUT MITCHELL AGAIN LOST HIS TEMPER AND ADDRESSED THE OFFICERS WITH ANGRY WORDS.
THIS IS TREASON! IF THE MEN DO NOT OBEY, WE WILL BLOW THE LOT TO SMITHEREENS— EVEN IF I AM MYSELF BLOWN TOGETHER WITH THEM!

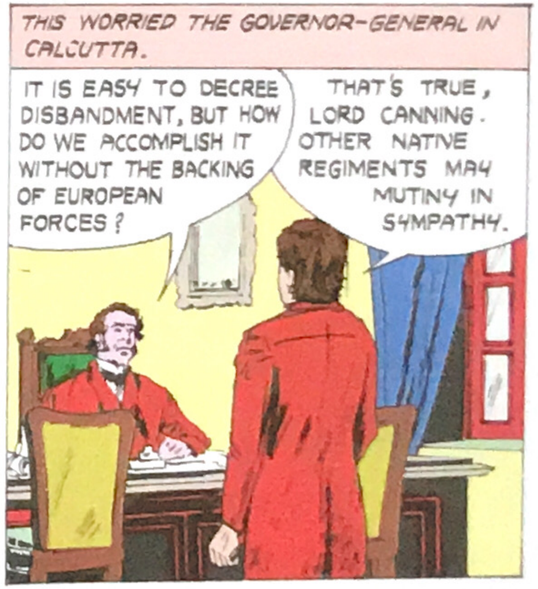
THEY BEGGED HIM NOT TO BE ANGRY, TO HEED THEIR ADVICE.
SIR, OUR MEN ARE SIMPLE PEOPLE. THEY BELIEVE THE CAVALRY AND ARTILLERY HAVE BEEN CALLED IN TO DESTROY THEM!
THEY ARE AFRAID, SIR, NOT DISLOYAL!

SIR, I AM SURE THEY WILL COME TO THEIR SENSES IN THE MORNING. IF ONLY YOU WOULD SEND BACK THE CAVALRY AND ARTILLERY NOW.
THE NATIVE OFFICERS FINALLY PURSUADED THE COMMANDING OFFICER TO AGREE.

THE GUNS AND CAVALRY WERE TURNED AWAY INTO THE NIGHT.

THE SEPOYS HEAVED A SIGH OF RELIEF WHEN THEY HEARD THE TRUNDLING SOUND OF ARTILLERY MOVING AWAY AND THEY SAW THE CAVALRY TORCHES MOVING FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY INTO THE DARKNESS. THEY KNEW THEY WERE SAFE FOR THE MOMENT.

THE NEXT DAY, THE 19TH NATIVE INFANTRY FELL IN FOR PARADE AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED. PERHAPS THEY HOPED THE INCIDENT WOULD BE OVERLOOKED.
BUT IT WAS NOT TO BE. A COURT OF ENQUIRY WAS HELD. TO THE BRITISH ARMY AUTHORITIES IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE 19TH NATIVE INFANTRY WOULD HAVE TO BE DISBANDED.


THIS WORRIED THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN CALCUTTA.
IT IS EASY TO DECREE DISBANDMENT, BUT HOW DO WE ACCOMPLISH IT WITHOUT THE BACKING OF EUROPEAN FORCES?
THAT'S TRUE, LORD CANNING. OTHER NATIVE REGIMENTS MAY MUTINY IN SYMPATHY.

I WILL GET BRITISH TROOPS FROM RANGOON. WE WILL ANNOUNCE THE VERDICT ON THE 19TH N.I. AFTER THE BRITISH TROOPS ARRIVE.

ORDER COL. MITCHELL TO MARCH THE MEN OF THE 19TH N.I. TO BARRACKPORE WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT THE VERDICT TO DISBAND THEM.
RIGHT, SIR.

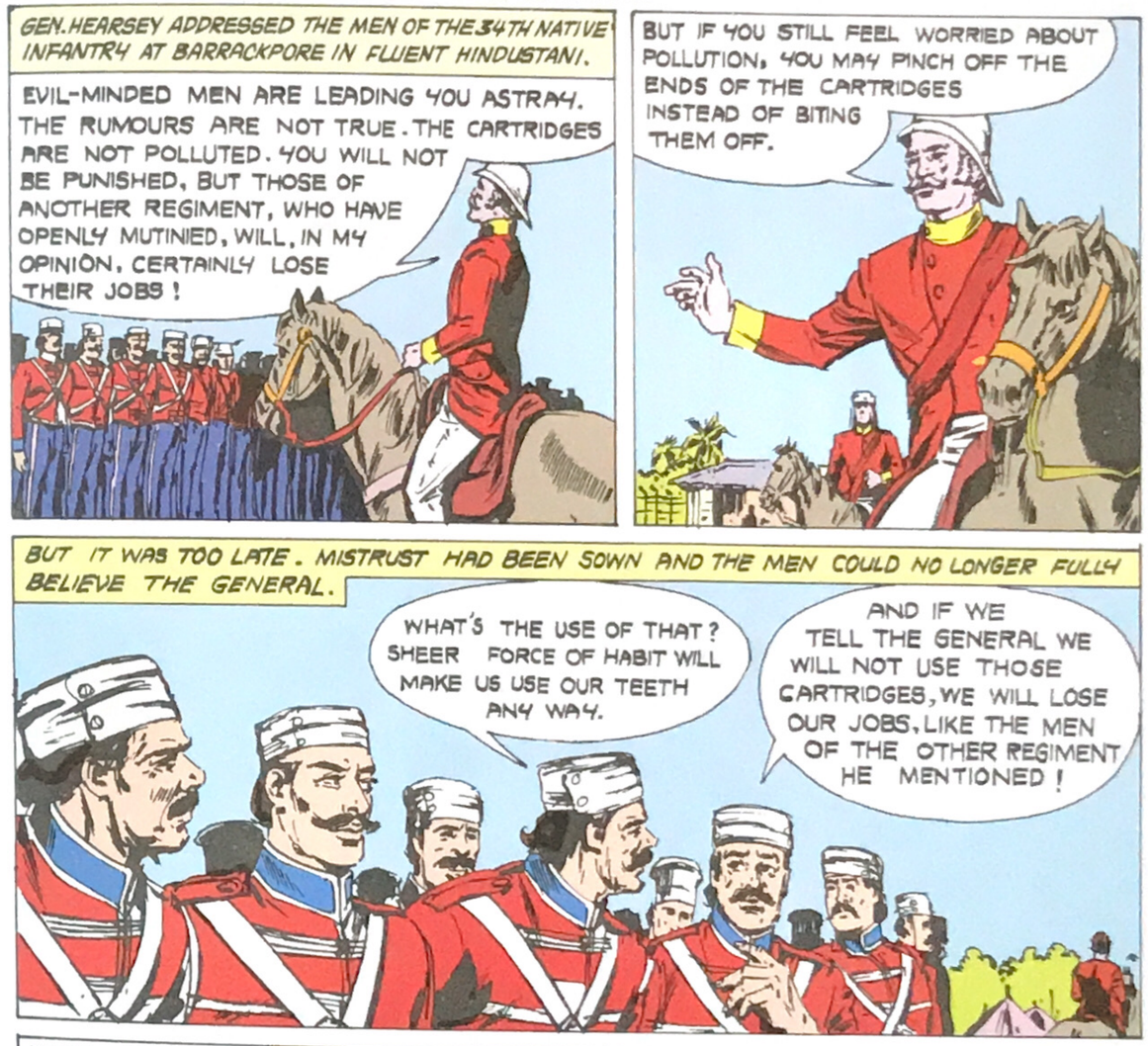
MEANWHILE, AT BARRACKPORE, THE NEWS OF THE REVOLT OF THE 19TH NATIVE INFANTRY WAS RECEIVED WITH EXCITEMENT.
THOSE BERHAMPORE MEN ARE BRAVE! THEY SACRIFICED EVERYTHING!
BUT THEY WILL LOSE THEIR JOBS. THIS DEED WILL NOT GO UNPUNISHED!
THEY MAY LOSE THEIR JOBS, BUT NOT THEIR HONOUR.
DON'T TRUST THE SIRCAR*. ALL OVER THE BAZAAR THEY ARE SAYING THAT EUROPEAN CAVALRY AND ARTILLERY ARE COMING TO DESTROY US.
I HEARD THAT A SHIP FULL OF EUROPEANS IS ARRIVING AT CALCUTTA SOON!
THIS SHIP REFERRED TO WAS THE "BENTINCK", WHICH WAS TO BRING THE BRITISH TROOPS FROM RANGOON.

GEN. HEARSEY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE BENTINCK UNTIL MUCH LATER. NOW HE WATCHED THE SULLEN FACES OF THE MEN AND WAS WORRIED.
THOSE MYSTERIOUS FIRES... AND NOW THE SILENT, ACCUSING LOOKS.
IT'S TIME I TALKED TO THE SEPOYS AND EXPLAINED THINGS.

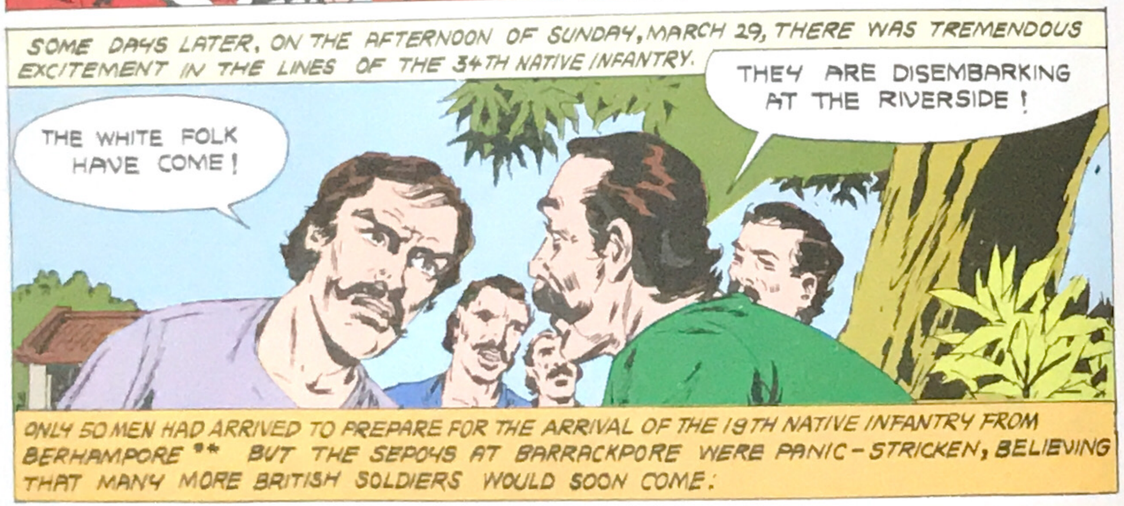
* GOVERNMENT



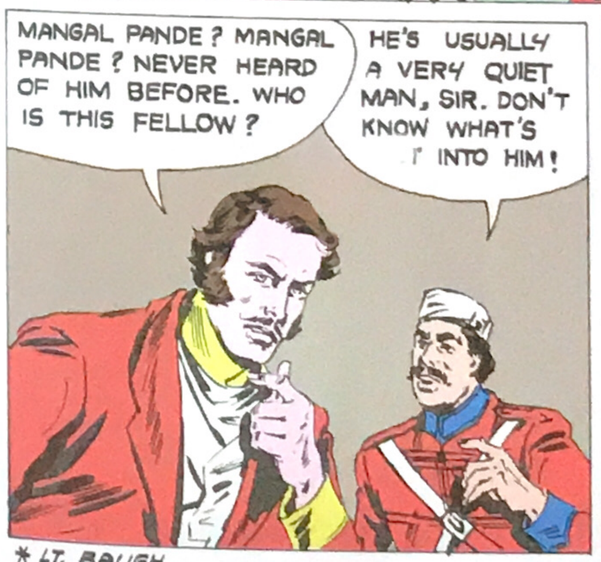



GEN. HEARSEY ADDRESSED THE MEN OF THE 34TH NATIVE INFANTRY AT BARRACKPORE IN FLUENT HINDUSTANI.
EVIL-MINDED MEN ARE LEADING YOU ASTRAY. THE RUMOURS ARE NOT TRUE. THE CARTRIDGES ARE NOT POLLUTED. YOU WILL NOT BE PUNISHED, BUT THOSE OF ANOTHER REGIMENT, WHO HAVE OPENLY MUTINIED, WILL, IN MY OPINION, CERTAINLY LOSE THEIR JOBS!
BUT IF YOU STILL FEEL WORRIED ABOUT POLLUTION, YOU MAY PINCH OFF THE ENDS OF THE CARTRIDGES INSTEAD OF BITING THEM OFF.
BUT IT WAS TOO LATE. MISTRUST HAD BEEN SOWN AND THE MEN COULD NO LONGER FULLY BELIEVE THE GENERAL.
WHAT'S THE USE OF THAT? SHEER FORCE OF HABIT WILL MAKE US USE OUR TEETH ANYWAY.
AND IF WE TELL THE GENERAL WE WILL NOT USE THOSE CARTRIDGES, WE WILL LOSE OUR JOBS, LIKE THE MEN OF THE OTHER REGIMENT HE MENTIONED!

DOES IT MEAN WE ARE GOING TO USE THOSE CARTRIDGES?
THE SEPOY WHO POSED THE QUESTION WAS KNOWN FOR HIS MILD TEMPERAMENT.
MANGAL PANDE, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE EVER SEEN YOU SHOW AN INTEREST IN THE CARTRIDGES!



** THE 19TH NATIVE INFANTRY REACHED BARRACKPORE A FEW DAYS LATER, ON 31 MARCH. IT WAS DISBANDED ON THE SAME DAY.



* LT. BAUGH.

AT THE PARADE GROUND, MANGAL PANDE WAS STALKING UP AND DOWN,
RISE AND TAKE UP ARMS, YOU LAZY BLACKGUARDS! MAKE HASTE BEFORE THE ENGLISH MAKE OUTCASTES OF US ALL!

THEY WILL DOLE OUT POLLUTED CARTRIDGES TO US! THEY WILL MAKE PARIAHS OF US!

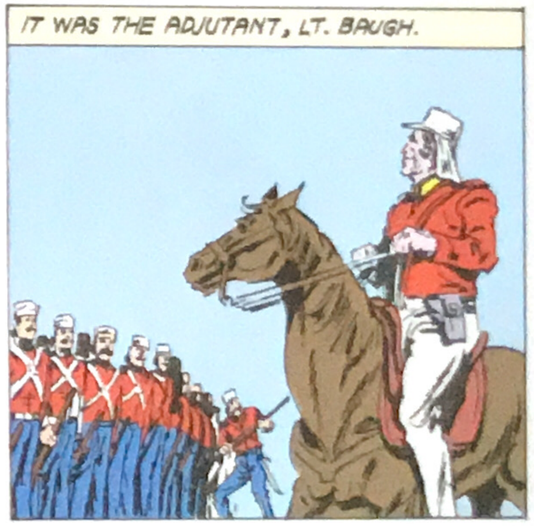
AND WE DO WHATEVER THEY SAY! EVEN THE WOMEN IN THE BAZAARS LAUGH AT US!

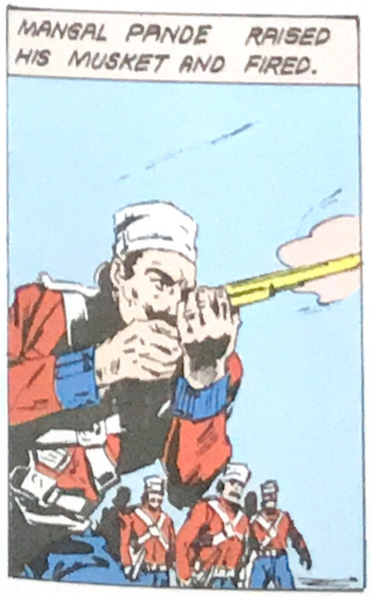
THE SEPOYS SHOWED THEIR EXCITEMENT AND INTEREST BY TALKING TO EACH OTHER AND ECHOING VAGUE CHALLENGES, ALMOST CHANTING.
YES, YES, POLLUTED CARTRIDGES!
YES, YES, PARIAHS, PARIAHS!

LIKE ONE DEMENTED, MANGAL PANDE CONTINUED TO STUMBLE ACROSS THE OPEN GROUND, SHOUTING, GESTICULATING, PLEADING.
JOIN ME, YOU BLACKGUARDS, YOU SONS OF DOGS! STRIKE A BLOW FOR YOUR RELIGION!

HE WAVED HIS MUSKET DANGEROUSLY IN THE AIR.
JOIN ME! COME!
NO ONE MOVED.

SUDDENLY THERE WAS THE SOUND OF A GALLOPING HORSE.
THE SAHIB!
THE SAHIB!


IT WAS THE ADJUTANT, LT. BAUGH.

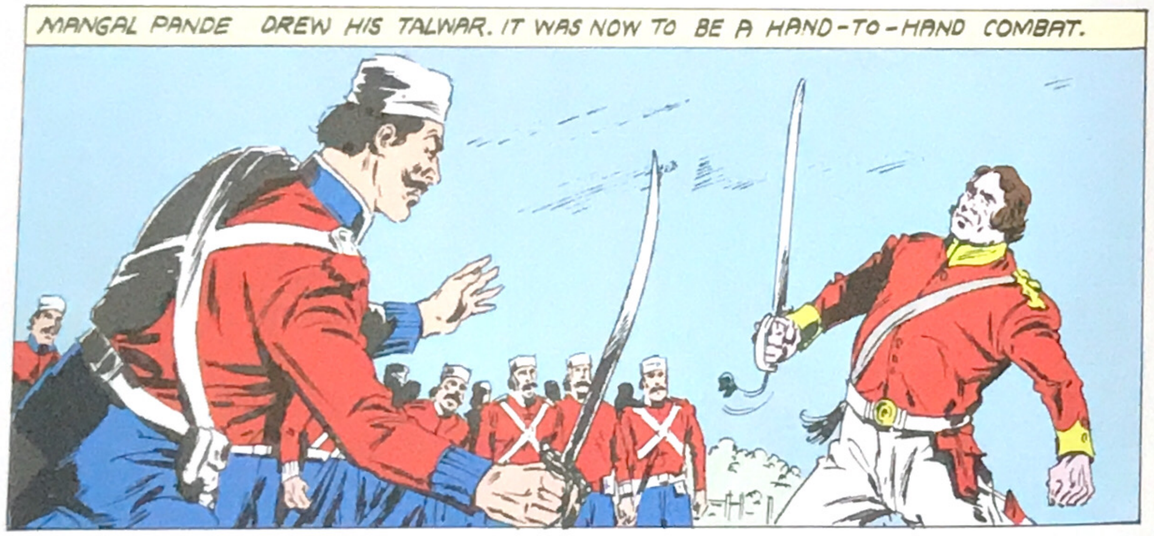

MANGAL PANDE RAISED HIS MUSKET AND FIRED.

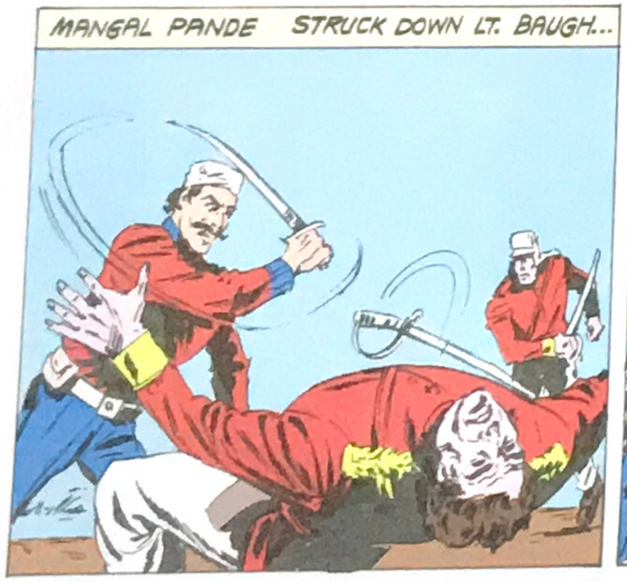
LT. BAUGH'S HORSE STUMBLED AND...

... ANIMAL AND RIDER ROLLED IN THE DUST.

THE ADJUTANT WAS NOT HURT. DRAWING HIS PISTOL, HE RAN TOWARDS MANGAL PANDE.

HE FIRED BUT MISSED.

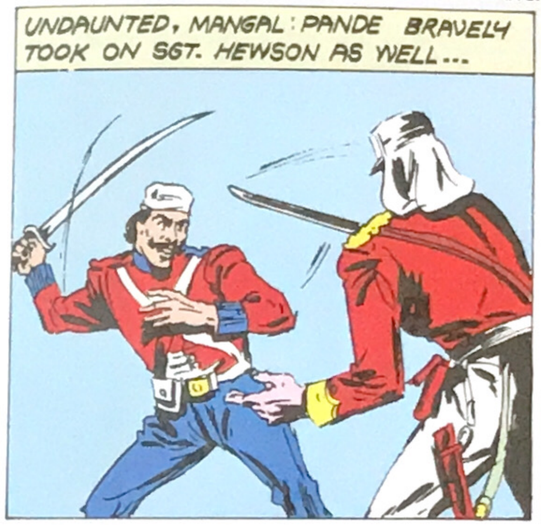

MANGAL PANDE DREW HIS TALWAR. IT WAS NOW TO BE A HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT.

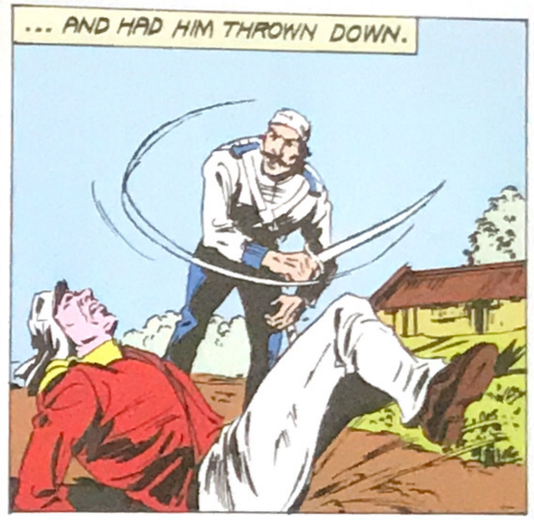

MANGAL PANDE STRUCK DOWN LT. BAUGH...

...AND MIGHT HAVE SECURED HIS MAN HAD NOT SGT. HEWSON ARRIVED JUST AT THAT MOMENT AND PREVENTED HIM.






UNDAUNTED, MANGAL PANDE BRAVELY TOOK ON SGT. HEWSON AS WELL...


... AND HAD HIM THROWN DOWN.

A MUFFLED CRY RANG OUT AMONG THE SEPOYS.
SHABASH!

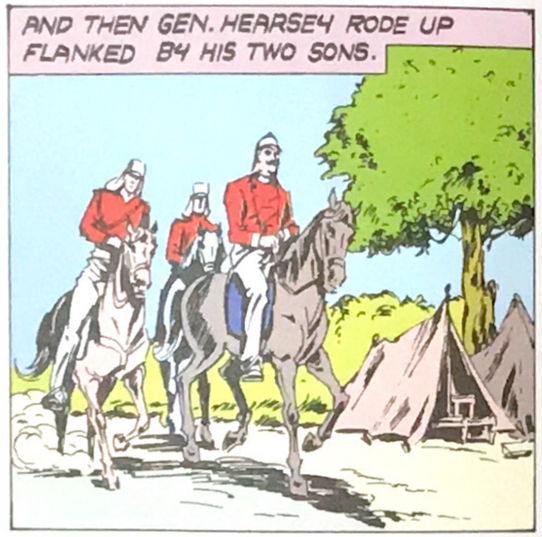
SGT. HEWSON CALLED TO ISHWARI PRASAD, THE HEAD OF THE NATIVE GUARD FOR AID.
YOU, THERE! ORDER YOUR MEN FORWARD TO GET THIS— THIS— SON OF A FOOL!

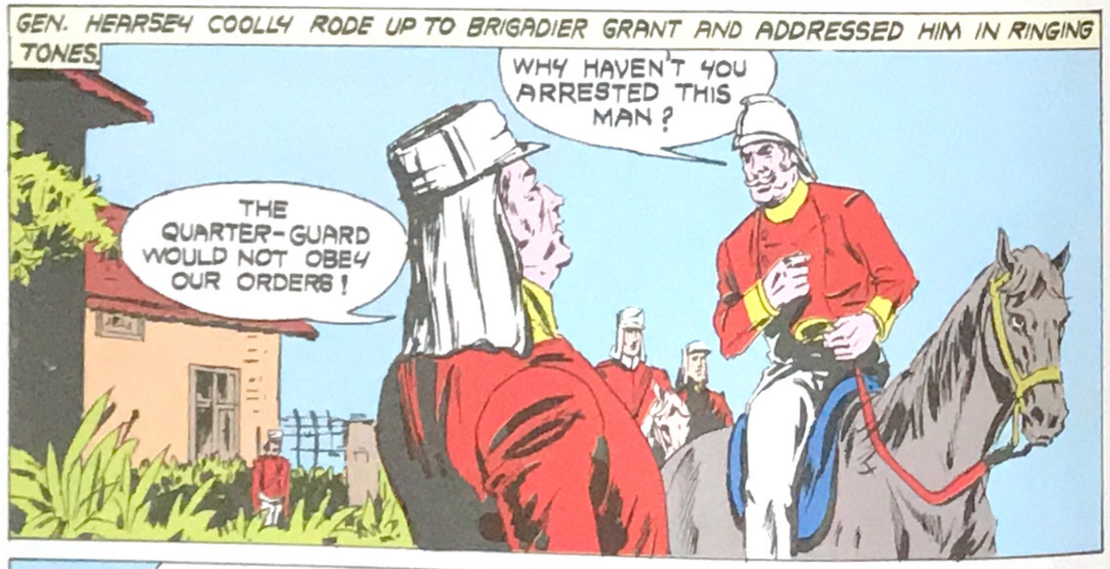
BUT THE GUARD MADE NO MOVE, THOUGH HIS MEN WERE STANDING AROUND HIM.

IN FACT, NO LONGER ABLE TO HIDE THEIR FEELINGS, THE MEN STRUCK AT THE FALLEN BRITISH OFFICER. THE MOB INSTINCT HAD, UNFORTUNATELY, TAKEN OVER.
MEANWHILE, MANGAL PANDE RAISED HIS TALWAR AGAIN TO STRIKE...
... BUT HIS WRIST WAS SEIZED FAST BY SEPOY SHAIKH PALTU.
LET GO OF MY ARM!
NO! NO! LEAVE HIM ALONE NOW!
HE HELD MANGAL PANDE FAST, GIVING THE OFFICER A CHANCE TO GET AWAY.
THE CROWD NOW AGAIN PLAYED THE PART OF SPECTATOR. THEY DID NOT COME TO THE AID OF MANGAL PANDE, AS THEY HAD NOT EARLIER COME TO THE AID OF THE BRITISH OFFICERS.

AND THERE WAS MORE SPECTACLE YET TO COME, WITH THE ENTRANCE OF THE PROSELYTIZING COL. WHELAN.
SEIZE THE MUTINEER!
THE HEAD GUARD MERELY MUTTERED.
THIS WON'T DO....
THE COLONEL LOOKED ON HELPLESSLY THROUGH HIS GOLD-RIMMED SPECTACLES.
USELESS TO PURSUE THIS FURTHER...
HE STUMBLED OFF TO REPORT TO THE STATION BRIGADIER, CHARLES GRANT.
BRIGADIER GRANT, WHO CAME NEXT, WAS GREETED WITH MILD CHEERS, BUT NOBODY MOVED. THE MEN SEEMED TO THINK IT WAS ALL A HUGE JOKE. THEY EXCHANGED LOOKS AND LAUGHED...

...WHILE MANGAL PANDE SWAGGERED UP AND DOWN.
JOIN ME, YOU DOGS. COME ON! COME ON!

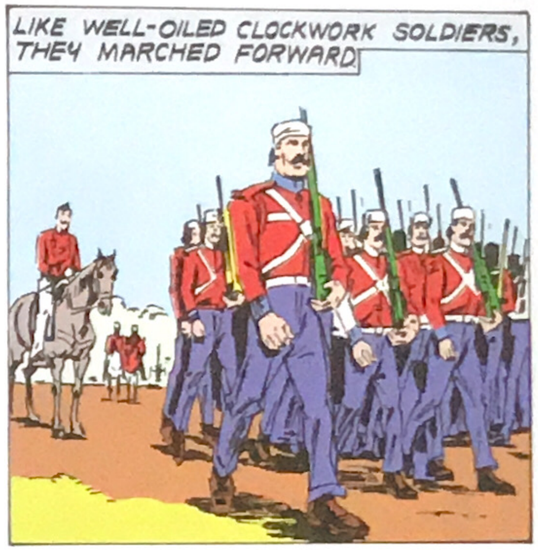

AND THEN GEN. HEARSEY RODE UP FLANKED BY HIS TWO SONS.


GEN. HEARSEY COOLLY RODE UP TO BRIGADIER GRANT AND ADDRESSED HIM IN RINGING TONES.
WHY HAVEN'T YOU ARRESTED THIS MAN?
THE QUARTER-GUARD WOULD NOT OBEY OUR ORDERS!

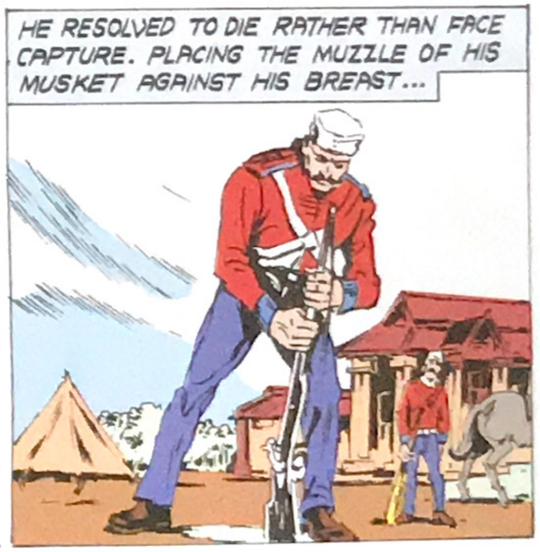
LET'S SEE ABOUT THAT!

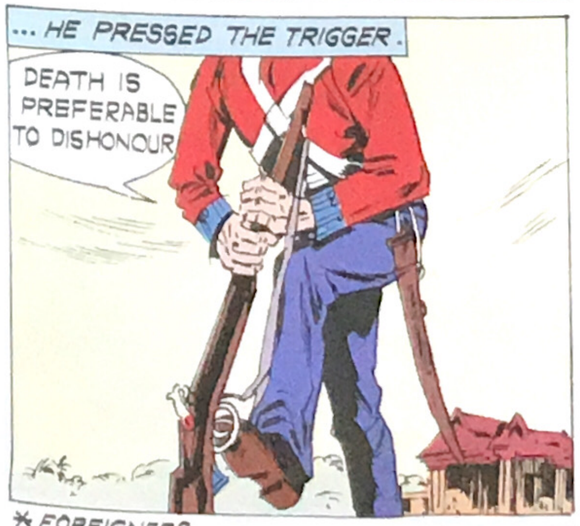
LOOK OUT, SIR! HIS MUSKET IS LOADED!
CONFOUND HIS MUSKET!

CALMLY RIDING UP TO THE GUARD, GEN. HEARSEY AIMED HIS REVOLVER AT HIS HEAD.
THE FIRST MAN WHO REFUSES TO MARCH, WHEN I GIVE THE ORDER, WILL BE SHOT DEAD! QUICK MARCH!

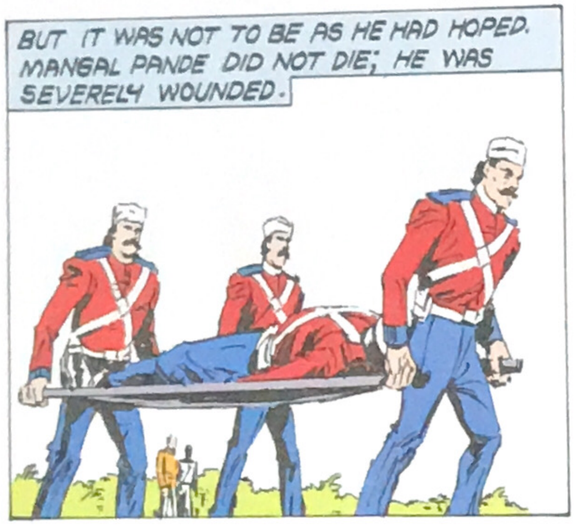

LIKE WELL-OILED CLOCKWORK SOLDIERS, THEY MARCHED FORWARD.

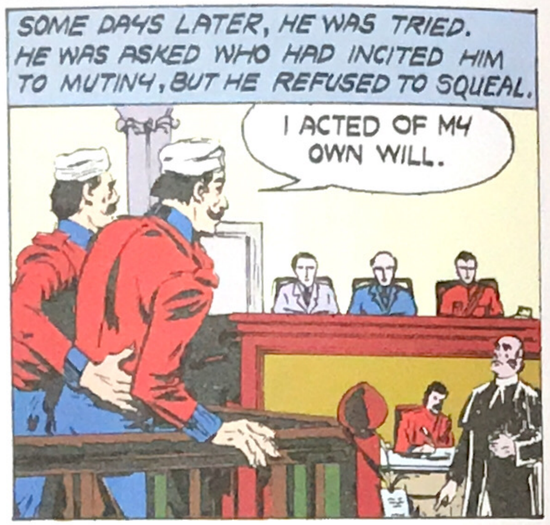
MANGAL PANDE SAW THAT THE BATTLE WAS LOST. HIS HOUR OF GLORY WAS OVER.
THESE FERINGHEES* WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND US. ONLY IGNOMINY AT THE HANDS OF THE GOVERNMENT AWAITS ME NOW.

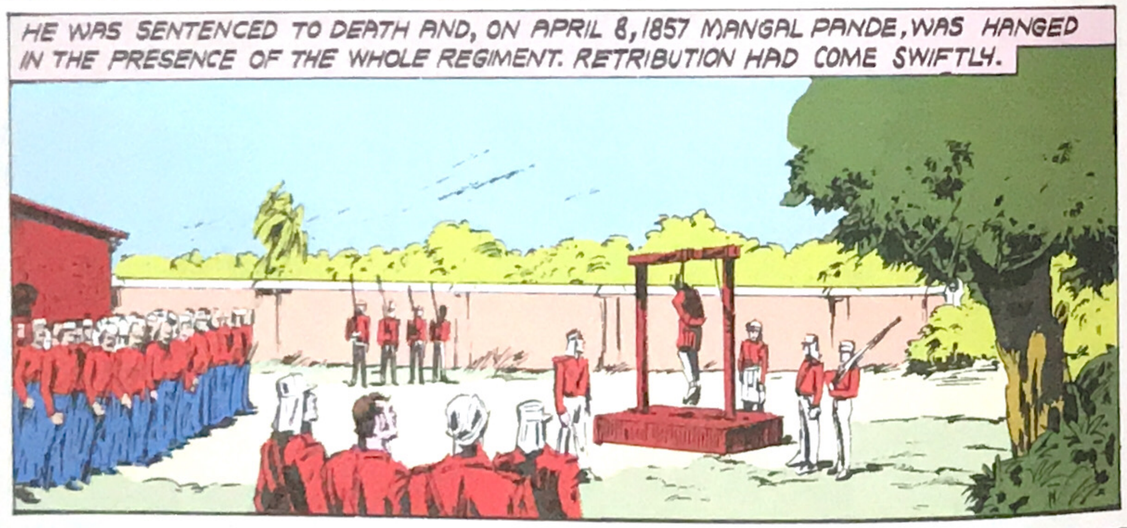

HE RESOLVED TO DIE RATHER THAN FACE CAPTURE. PLACING THE MUZZLE OF HIS MUSKET AGAINST HIS BREAST...


... HE PRESSED THE TRIGGER.
DEATH IS PREFERABLE TO DISHONOUR

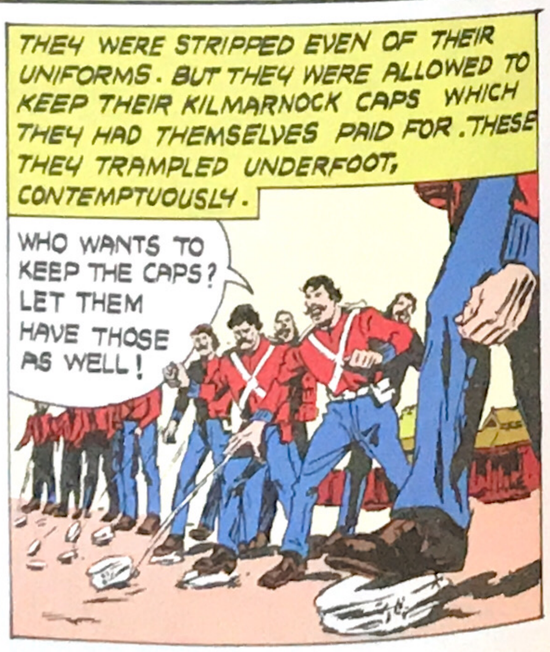
* FOREIGNERS


BUT IT WAS NOT TO BE AS HE HAD HOPED. MANGAL PANDE DID NOT DIE; HE WAS SEVERELY WOUNDED.


SOME DAYS LATER, HE WAS TRIED. HE WAS ASKED WHO HAD INCITED HIM TO MUTINY, BUT HE REFUSED TO SQUEAL.
I ACTED OF MY OWN WILL.

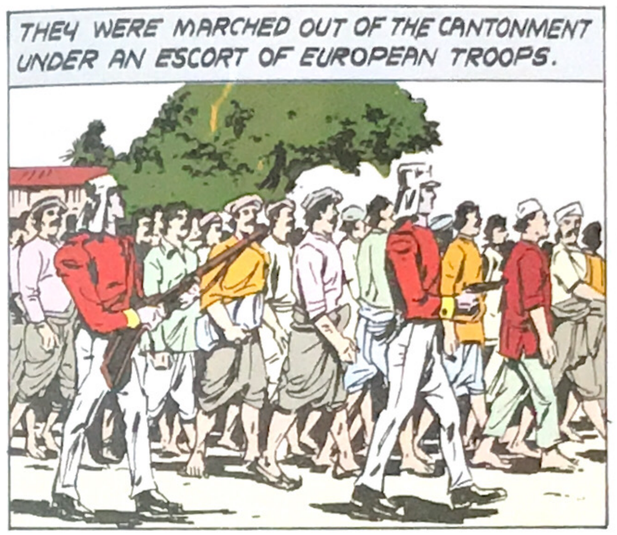

HE WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH AND, ON APRIL 8, 1857 MANGAL PANDE, WAS HANGED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE WHOLE REGIMENT. RETRIBUTION HAD COME SWIFTLY.

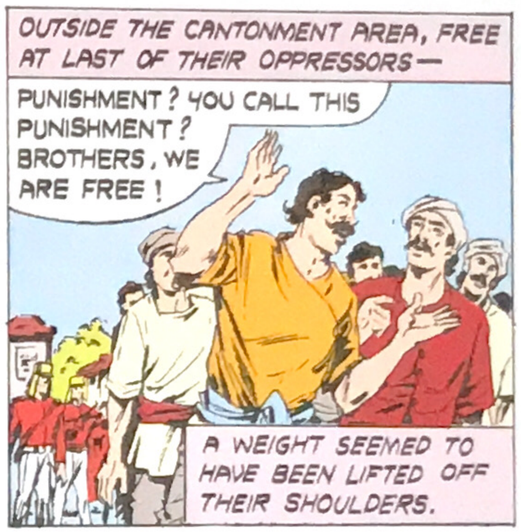
ISHWARI PRASAD, HEAD GUARD, WAS SENTENCED AND EXECUTED ON ARRIL 21. IT TOOK THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FIVE WEEKS TO DECIDE ON WHAT PUNISHMENT TO METE OUT TO THE OTHERS. FINALLY IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE REST OF THE 34TH NATIVE INFANTRY SHOULD BE DISARMED AND DISBANDED.

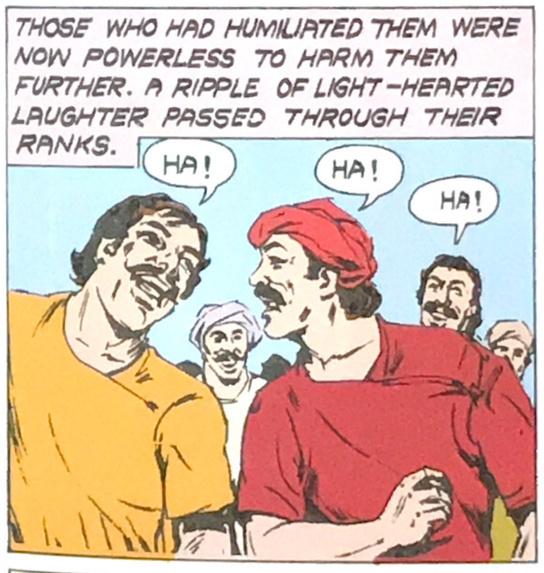

THEY WERE STRIPPED EVEN OF THEIR UNIFORMS. BUT THEY WERE ALLOWED TO KEEP THEIR KILMARNOCK CAPS WHICH THEY HAD THEMSELVES PAID FOR. THESE THEY TRAMPLED UNDERFOOT, CONTEMPTUOUSLY.
WHO WANTS TO KEEP THE CAPS? LET THEM HAVE THOSE AS WELL!

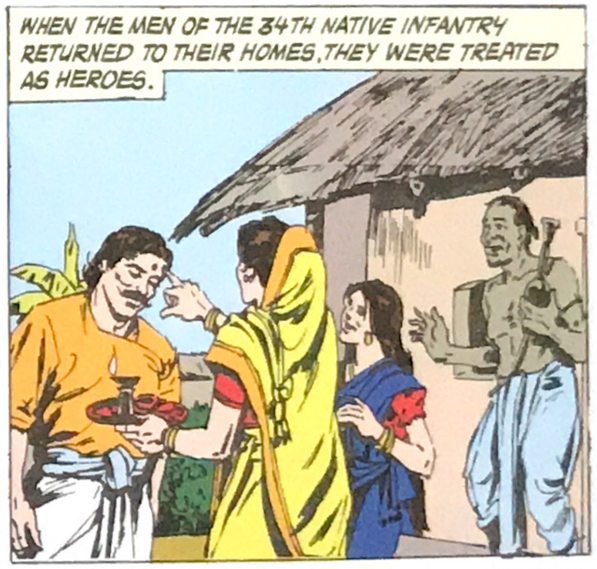


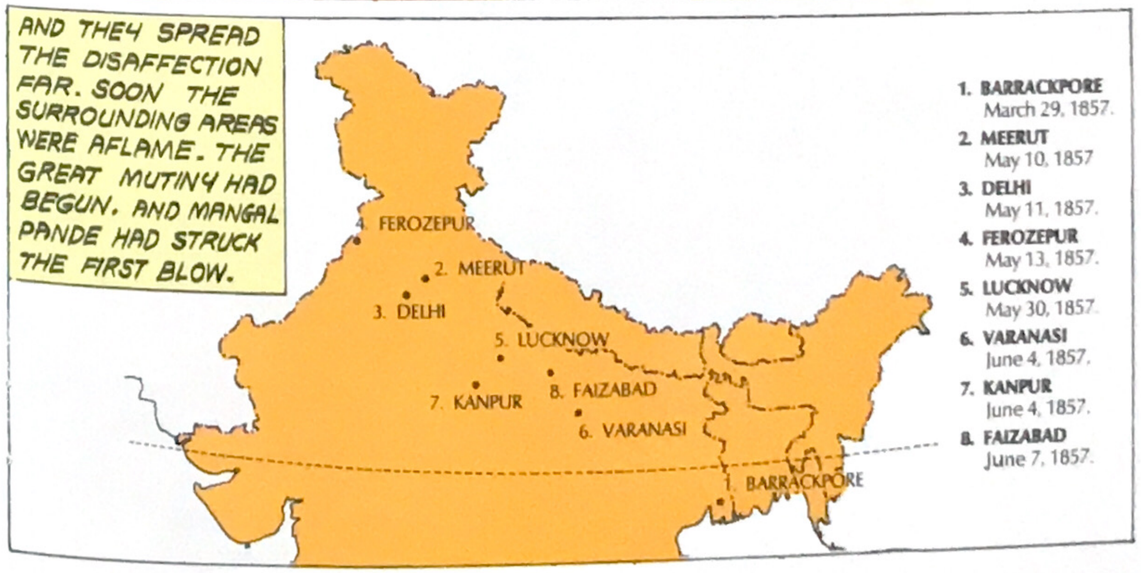



THEY WERE MARCHED OUT OF THE CANTONMENT UNDER AN ESCORT OF EUROPEAN TROOPS.


OUTSIDE THE CANTONMENT AREA, FREE AT LAST OF THEIR OPPRESSORS—
PUNISHMENT? YOU CALL THIS PUNISHMENT? BROTHERS, WE ARE FREE!
A WEIGHT SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN LIFTED OFF THEIR SHOULDERS.


THOSE WHO HAD HUMILIATED THEM WERE NOW POWERLESS TO HARM THEM FURTHER. A RIPPLE OF LIGHT-HEARTED LAUGHTER PASSED THROUGH THEIR RANKS.
HA!
HA!
HA!


WHEN THE MEN OF THE 34TH NATIVE INFANTRY RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES, THEY WERE TREATED AS HEROES.


AND THEY SPREAD THE DISAFFECTION FAR. SOON THE SURROUNDING AREAS WERE AFLAME. THE GREAT MUTINY HAD BEGUN. AND MANGAL PANDE HAD STRUCK THE FIRST BLOW.
4. FEROZEPUR
2. MEERUT
3. DELHI
5. LUCKNOW
7. KANPUR
8. FAIZABAD
6. VARANASI
1. BARRACKPORE
1. BARRACKPORE March 29, 1857.
2. MEERUT May 10, 1857
3. DELHI May 11, 1857.
4. FEROZEPUR May 13, 1857.
5. LUCKNOW May 30, 1857.
6. VARANASI June 4, 1857.
7. KANPUR June 4, 1857.
8. FAIZABAD June 7, 1857.